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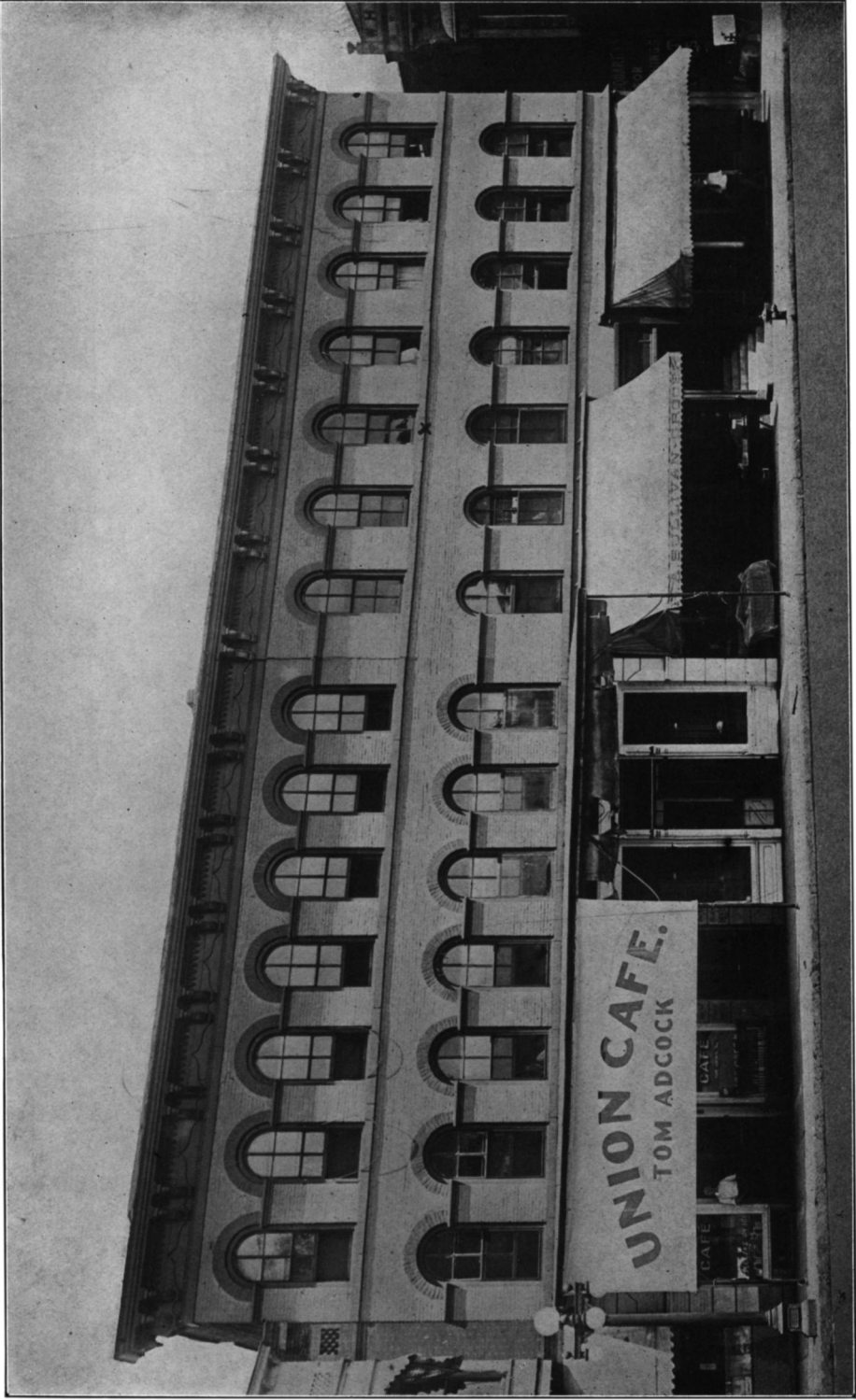
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OLD RANDOLPH HOUSE, MACOMB, ILLINOIS.

THE OLD RANDOLPH HOUSE, MACOMB, ILLINOIS.

[By JAMES C. BURNS.]

The week intervening between the Ottawa and the Freeport debate in the Lincoln-Douglas Senatorial campaign in August, 1858, Mr. Lincoln spent in western Illinois speaking at Galesburg and other places. Wednesday, August 2, he spoke at Augusta in Hancock County and Wednesday evening, unheralded, he came to Macomb and "put up" at the Randolph House—at that time the best hostelry between Chicago and Quincy. As soon as it was known that he was in town, the courthouse bell was rung and messengers were sent through the town announcing that he would speak in the court house at eight o'clock. A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered and Mr. Lincoln delivered a short address. He was accompanied by Deacon Bross and Joseph Medill of the *Chicago Press* and *Tribune*. Mr. Lincoln remained close in his room all day Thursday refusing to leave it except for a moment, when, at the solicitation of the editor of the *Journal*, he walked across the street to Pearson's photograph gallery where his picture was taken. It was in room 21 of this hotel that Mr. Lincoln got ready for his debate at Freeport. It was here that he prepared the four great questions propounded to Mr. Douglas at Freeport the following day. Mr. Lincoln believed that these questions (put into form in room 21 of the old Randolph House in Macomb) won for him the presidency. See reminiscences of Lincoln by Joseph Medill in *Illinois Historical Collections*, volume III, Sparks.